

MAR 08 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO CONSULT WITH
COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE DIRECT TRADITIONAL, CULTURAL,
AND FAMILIAL TIES TO THE DISTRICT OF PUNA TO ESTABLISH
APPROPRIATE NAMES FOR THE FISSURE 8 VENT AND OTHER FEATURES
OF THE 2018 ERUPTION OF KILAUEA VOLCANO.

1 WHEREAS, section 4E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides
2 that the members of the State Board on Geographic Names shall
3 consist of the following or their representatives: the
4 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the
5 Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Chairperson
6 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the Director of the Office of
7 Planning, the President of the University of Hawaii, the State
8 Land Surveyor, and the Director of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum;
9 and
10

11 WHEREAS, section 4E-3(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
12 the Board to "designate the official names and spellings of
13 geographic features in Hawaii and provide for circulation
14 thereof to the appropriate state and other agencies" and, in its
15 deliberations, to "solicit and consider the advice and
16 recommendations of the appropriate county government officials,
17 and, should the board desire, other knowledgeable persons"; and
18

19 WHEREAS, on May 3, 2018, following a magmatic intrusion
20 into the East Rift Zone of Kilauea Volcano, the first of two
21 dozen fissures erupted near Mohalu Street in Leilani Estates;
22 and
23

24 WHEREAS, on May 5, 2018, the eighth fissure, known as
25 Fissure 8, opened near Luana Street in Leilani Estates, and
26 briefly erupted lava fountains that reached an estimated two
27 hundred thirty feet in height, sending a slow-moving lava flow
28 approximately 0.6 miles northward and covering many homes in the
29 subdivision; and
30



1 WHEREAS, on the night of May 23, 2018, Fissure 8
2 reactivated and sent a fast-moving flow northward that crossed
3 Pohoiki Road; surrounded Puna Geothermal Venture; crossed
4 Highway 132; covered Noni Farms Road and Railroad Avenue;
5 inundated papaya farm land; crossed Highway 137; entered Ka Wai
6 a Pele (Green Lake); burned hundreds of homes in Kapoho Farm
7 Lots, Kapoho Vacationland, and Kapoho Beach lots; filled in
8 Kapoho Bay; and destroyed the Waiopae Tidepools Marine Life
9 Conservation District; and

10
11 WHEREAS, eruptive activity from the twenty-three other
12 fissures have become concentrated at Fissure 8, where a gushing
13 fountain has built a broad cone approximately one hundred eighty
14 feet high; and

15
16 WHEREAS, because the United States Geological Survey
17 defines a volcanic fissure as an "elongate fracture or crack at
18 the surface from which lava erupts", the term "Fissure 8" is an
19 inaccurate name for the large tephra cone located on the East
20 Rift Zone within Leilani Estates; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the ongoing eruption is creating numerous other
23 new and unnamed volcanic features, including the enlarged
24 crater, or nested caldera, at Halemaumau; the collapsed crater
25 at Puu Oo; the line of fissures and steam vents extending
26 through Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens; the ocean entry at
27 Malama Ki Forest Reserve; and the channelized lava flow to the
28 ocean at Kapoho Bay; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the naming of a volcanic feature in the Hawaiian
31 language may encode information about its physical
32 characteristics, historical events associated with its
33 formation, ecological surroundings, geographical location, or
34 related oral histories; and

35
36 WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey uses informal
37 names to identify and communicate information about volcanic
38 features, but defers to the local community, including Hawaiian
39 elders, for formal names; and



1 WHEREAS, the global community of amateur lava watchers have
 2 suggested many names for Fissure 8, but the names for this and
 3 other new volcanic features associated with the current eruption
 4 should be provided by community members with direct traditional,
 5 cultural, and familial ties to the district of Puna; now,
 6 therefore,

7
 8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 9 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the State
 10 Board on Geographic Names is urged to consult with community
 11 members who have direct traditional, cultural, and familial ties
 12 to the district of Puna to establish appropriate names for the
 13 Fissure 8 vent and other features of the 2018 eruption of
 14 Kilauea Volcano; and

15
 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 17 Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the State Board on
 18 Geographic Names.
 19
 20
 21

OFFERED BY:




